



Voters approve 50 year extension of Measure J!

County voters overwhelmingly passed Measure P on election day, securing a 50 year extension of Measure J, Napa's successful landmark farmland and watershed protection initiative. The measure preserves agriculture by allowing citizens to vote on development proposals which would convert ag land to a non-ag use. It also protects the 160 acre minimum parcel size for lands designated Ag Watershed & Open Space in the County's General Plan.

There was no vocal opposition to the initiative and broad support from the business and environmental sectors, city and county governments and a diverse array of citizens. Congratulations to the many volunteers of the Save Measure J campaign committee and to Committee Chairperson Volker Eisele for a job well done. We're very grateful for the community's support to protect Napa's legacy!

Vineyard/ Winery Labor Law Seminar January 14th

This information packed forum presented by Mike Saqui, Labor Attorney Specialist, will address today's critical labor law issues. An invitation and registration form will be sent in the mail closer to the date. In the meantime mark your calendar for January 14th.

EQIP deadline extension

The signup deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has been extended by USDA from October 31st to December 2nd. This grant program funds conservation work such as riparian restoration projects, grazing management projects, vineyard cover crops, and other erosion control projects Visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/EQIP/> for more information.

Let's Celebrate 90 years of service!

Register now for the CFBF's 90th Annual Meeting, Dec. 7-10 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport in Burlingame. The program of events and registration is available online at cbbf.com/am2008.

NCFB's Board elected Peter Nissen, Ron Taddei and Al Wagner as our county delegates to the meeting. They will debate and vote on changes to the California Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau policy books.

Putah Creek Watershed Group approves 2008/09 Water Quality Monitoring Plan

The Steering Committee for the Putah Creek Watershed Group (PCWG) met on Oct. 27th and approved the Water Quality Monitoring Plan for the upcoming year. An assessment of \$5 per acre was set and participants will soon be receiving their invoices and a PCWG Status report.

Now in its 6th year, the Putah Creek Watershed Group is a voluntary coalition of growers who manage an ag water quality program. The program provides a cost effective way for growers to comply with mandatory water quality rules from the Central Valley Regional Water Board. Greg Rodeno serves as Chairman and Sally Kimsey is the Treasurer. Farm Bureau provides administrative support to the group. If you have irrigated ag land in the Putah Creek Watershed, and are not in the group, please contact Farm Bureau.

National Farm-City Week, Nov. 21—27, is an opportunity to reflect on all the ways the farms and cities in Napa Valley are interwoven and dependent upon each other.

Our farmers and ranchers produce and deliver the foods we consume in addition to providing the economic engine that fuels the Napa Valley. This week is an opportunity to focus on the champions of our food supply and economic support—let us join in recognizing and thanking them for a job well done!



Members' Holiday Reception & Appreciation Gift on Dec. 4th

Please join us on December 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a reception to celebrate the start of the holiday season. Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres as you mingle with fellow FB members, staff and board members and receive a little treat.

Location: NCFB Office at 811 Jefferson St (Corner of Third St.) RSVP: 707.224.5403

In Stream Flow Policy – Observers wanted

As part of our efforts on creating a feasible water policy, we are hoping that you will engage in an experiment. We are requesting that you look at your creek at an easy to mark site like a bridge or where ever is easiest during and after the storms and write down the date and time of your observation along with the flow level on a form. This is simple but very effective way to document how many inches of rain over what period of time it took this winter to result in connected flow in different areas and how long that flow lasted. Visit <http://www.napafarmbureau.org/aboutncfb/currentissues.html> to download a stream observer data sheet form. You may contact The California Land Stewardship Institute at 707.253.1226 with questions.

Submit your comments on the Federal proposal to expand red legged frog critical habitat.

Comments are accepted until November 17th at www.regulations.gov and is your opportunity to provide information on planned activities (i.e., any activity that would require a permit to complete) that might be impacted by a critical habitat designation or provide information about areas proposed for designation that do not contain habitat, and should therefore not be designated as such.

To connect to a Google Earth map that shows the Napa areas impacted by the red legged frog critical habitat (South County and Capell Valley) visit:

http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/ea/news_releases/2008_News_Releases/ca_red-legged_frog_proposed_critical_habitat_revision.htm

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Visit napafarmbureau.org for a complete list

NOVEMBER 2008

- 10 – Land Use & Taxation meeting 224-5403
- 11 – Community & Member Outreach meeting 224-5403
- 13 – Estate Planning Workshop 224-5403
- 19 – Board of Directors meeting 224-5403
- 20 – Ag In The Classroom meeting 224-5403
- 21-27 – National Farm-City Week

DECEMBER 2008

- 2 – Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting 224-5403
- 3 - Natural Resources meeting 224-5403
- 4 – Holiday Reception 224-5403
- 7-10 – CFBF Annual Meeting 224-5403
- 15 - Land Use & Taxation meeting 224-5403
- 16 – Community & Member Outreach meeting 224-5403
- 17 – Board of Directors meeting 224-5403
- 18 – Ag In The Classroom meeting 224-5403

Save the date!

- January 14 — Labor Law Workshop 224-5403
- February 25 – Teacher Appreciation Day 224-5403
- May 8 – Ag Education Golf Classic 224-5403

Plan for year-end giving with a donation to AITC!

Support childrens’ understanding of Agriculture by making a donation to NCFB’s Ag in the Classroom program. AITC is a 501(c)(3) organization that makes your gift tax deductible as a charitable donation. Contact AITC Program Manager Glynda Christian at 224.5403 x 104. You can also donate through 1% for the Planet, a business philanthropy program. For more info go to www.onepercentfortheplanet.org.



Bits and pieces

- Fun Volunteer Opportunity - We are now looking for models for the 2010 Napa Uncovered Calendar. Models need to be 18 or older and NCFB members. Please contact Sylvie at 707.224.5403 x 102.

- Unique Holiday Gift Idea - Collector Soil Maps of the Napa Area in 1933 are now available on our web store. Purchase your copy today at napafarmbureau.org